

THE PACIFIC
COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR.

SATURDAY : : : DECEMBER 29

Orders are pouring in for the New Year number of the Advertiser, and a great many more are likely to follow today. Everybody will want a paper to send to friends abroad.

The Pacific has belied its name in the North after the usual winter fashion, and two fine steamers have been wrecked by wind and wave. One of these, the City of Topeka, belonged to the Pacific Coast Steamship Company, which had already lost three vessels in the Alaskan trade.

The attention of the planters is called to the chapter on Island labor in the Advertiser's Washington correspondence, printed in this issue. The writer, Mr. E. M. Boyd, has had excellent chances to inquire into the practicability of getting white labor, and his views regarding it and those touching the Porto Ricans are of marked importance and interest.

France has been shamed out of taking the loot her general collected at Peking, but Germany still clings to hers. A more indefensible act than the official thievery which followed the entrance of the allies to the Chinese capital, could scarcely be imagined outside the sphere of arson and murder. It was the worst of all spectacles for Christian nations to afford the heathen Chinese.

The position of affairs in South Africa is growing very serious. The Boers have invaded the Cape Colony and the Dutch farmers there are rising to aid them. This naturally stops the chase of De Wet, and turns the British forces towards their own soil. To make matters worse the volunteers and colonialists want to go home after the fashion of the first American troops in the Philippines, and the government is trying to bribe them to stay. At such a juncture as this, Lord Roberts will feel like foregoing the proposed London welcome and turning back to the old battlefields.

CONDENSED NEWS.

The Santa Fe strike is at last ended. The Canadian coal miners may strike.

An Arizona judge was badly stabbed by a woman.

Admiral W. S. Schley will retire next October.

The warship Kentucky spent Christmas at Suez.

Fitz says he has quit the prize ring for good.

Arizona is urging her admission into the Union as a State.

A floral Congress will be held in California in the spring.

California will be represented at the Pan-American Exposition.

A bill introducing the jury system in Porto Rico has passed both houses.

The cruiser Albany, which went aground in Subig Bay, has been floated.

The San Francisco Art Association will hold a Mardi Gras ball next year.

The Ravine mine cave-in in Pittston, Pa., threatens to engulf the whole town.

A Los Angeles man gave himself up to the sheriff, claiming to be a double murderer.

The surf at San Diego was rougher on the 21st instant than for many years past.

The American National Bank of Baltimore is insolvent. Its liabilities are \$1,016,250.

Ex-Congressman John W. Brewer, a warm personal friend of President McKinley, is dead.

General Brooke rebuked Cadet Keller, an opponent of hazed Booz, for unsoldierlike conduct.

Stevenson, B. C., was under four feet of water, December 21st, as a result of the high tides and rain.

A bill was introduced in the House December 21st, providing for a "Chin Dwellers' National Park."

Three-quarters of this year's crop of prunes in California are unsold, and the selling season is over.

The creditors of the Chosen Friends of Indianapolis, will probably receive but ten cents on the dollar.

Charles H. Cramp, head of the Cramp Shipbuilding Company, declares in favor of the subsidy bill.

Frederick Richard Pickersgill, a Royal Academician, died suddenly in London on the 21st instant.

Charles W. Leadbater, the celebrated English theologian, will arrive in California early in January.

Jules Page's salon picture, "Corner in a Studio," is now the property of the San Francisco School of Design.

The net earnings of railways in the United States are over seventy-three million dollars greater than last year.

Courtesy has been demanded of Quarantine Officer Kinyoun by the Chamber of Commerce in San Francisco.

The Bell Telephone Company has won the royalty suit brought by the Western Union. The case involved \$12,000,000.

W. F. Herrin, of the Southern Pacific Railway Company, says the new president, Charles M. Hays, is extremely popular.

Over 2,500 sacks of mail left New York on the steamer Majestic last week. It was the largest mail ever sent from that city.

Charles Carrol, an old time newspaper man, graduate of West Point, and a colonel, died in the County Infirmary at Oakland on the 21st instant.

Major Guignot will receive sixty days' confinement in a fort, by order of the French Minister of War, General Andre, for disobedience of orders.

Recent sales of real estate in Galveston show that current property values are held at only about one-half the figures prevailing prior to the storm.

A HITCH IN
THE ULTIMATUMThe Joint Note to China Has
Not Been Signed
as Yet.

PEKING, Dec. 21.—Once more there is a pronounced hitch in the proceedings. The preliminary joint note has not yet been signed. Conger, the United States Minister, says he does not believe that there are sufficient reasons why it should not be signed in the near future, and Sir Ernest Satow, the British Minister, takes the same view. Dr. Munin von Schwartzstein, speaking for Germany, believes that the existing agreement will be signed sooner or later. The other Ministers also say that they consider the probabilities in favor of signing.

Chinese sources of information, however, say there is reliable authority for the statement that there is very little chance of the note being signed for some time. As a matter of fact, the members of the staff of Li Hung Chang believe that the note will eventually have to be drawn up either in Europe or America, probably the latter, because they claim that the Washington Government has had most to do with the existing modification of the various forms of harshness.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—It now appears that the British Foreign Office has not received direct information from Peking that the joint note has been signed, but in view of the fact that it had received assurances from ambassadors in London to the effect that all Ministers had been instructed to sign, the Foreign Office accepted as correct alleged semi-official dispatches from Berlin and Paris announcing the signing. The Foreign Office declares it has every reason to believe the signing is an accomplished fact and that the telegrams to the contrary are possibly anterior thereto.

WRECKED IN THE
NORTH PACIFIC

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 17.—The steamer City of Topeka of the Pacific Coast Company lies possibly a total wreck on the ragged rocks off Sullivan Island, in Lynn canal, forty miles from Juneau and only one mile from the point where the ill-fated steamer Clara Nevada was lost with over sixty lives. Luck favored the Topeka or she would have gone down instantly in deep water, carrying to death her passengers and crew, numbering 100. As it was, all hands were landed in the boats. Many of them came to Seattle today on the Dolphin, which brought the first news of the wreck.

[The City of Topeka, built in 1884, was formerly commanded by Capt. John Dillingham, uncle of B. F. Dillingham, of Honolulu.]

THE ALPHA LOST.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Dec. 17.—The steamer Alpha is at the bottom of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, against the rock at the base of the lighthouse on Yellow Island, on the east coast of Vancouver Island, and nine brave fellows went to the bottom with her. She was bound for Japan with a cargo of 700 tons of salted salmon consigned by Jan & Tamura and worth \$20,000. The cargo is lost and nothing remains of the ship above the surface of the water.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Dec. 22.—It looks as though the sea were venting a pitiless spite upon the victims of the Alpha disaster. Three of the recovered bodies were being taken in a boat to the place of holding the coroner's inquest, when through the capsizing of the boat the three corpses were again swallowed up by the sea. The bodies were those of Purser J. H. Barber, Third Engineer Murray and Sullivan, able seaman.

COAST STEAMER'S PERIL.

PORT TOWNSEND, Wash., Dec. 21.—The steamship Rival, according to reports brought here tonight by the tug Rabboni, had a perilous voyage from San Francisco to South Bend. After leaving San Francisco the Rival encountered severe gales, and when she succeeded in reaching Willapa Harbor the weather was so stormy that she was unable to pick up the buoys marking the channel. While lying in full length and in that condition as the fury of the gale increased, she was compelled to put to sea and while under a full head of steam drifted broadside before the gale for forty miles. She then headed for Cape Flattery, arriving in the morning with only ten tons of coal. Captain Johnson said he momentarily expected his vessel to go to the bottom.

CHINESE AMENITIES.

Factions of the United Chinese Societies Fight Last Night.

War waged in the rooms of the United Chinese Societies last night. The two factions of the societies which meet there on regular occasions—the reformers and the imperialists, or those who back the Consul Yang Wei Pin—gathered in the rooms and hallways in scores, and it was evident that the imperialists were ready to resist all efforts of the reform element to vote the money of the societies for the Chinese Hospital. At the last meeting of the societies the consul opposed the measure, and was backed up by President Yee Ching and the non-reformers.

Last night while W. W. Ahana was upon the floor urging the passage of a motion to place the funds in question at the disposal of the hospital he was suddenly attacked by a non-reformer who hails from the province of Lung Tu. For a moment there was considerable confusion in the hall, but the president, Yee Ching, made no effort to placate the fighting men. Mr. Ahana, who is a small man, was not a fit opponent for his assailant, who is of more powerful build, and the former beat a hasty retreat. The reformers were about to engage in a general affray when Mr. Ahana quit the field. After order was restored a vote was taken and the measure passed. The amount of money in question was nearly \$2,000.

This marks the third time Ahana has been attacked by Lung Tu Chinese, and they are known to be bitterly opposed to him and a large number of others who are known as reformers and have discarded the queue. There is a bitter feeling between the two factions in the United Societies, inasmuch as the president is said to be a strong Tung Fu man.

NEWS OF WORLD
CONDENSED

The House has recently voted in favor of the Hopkins bill.

A cannery fire at Sacramento last week caused a loss of \$10,000.

A great landslide near Castle Crag, Cal., delayed overland trains.

President McKinley had a buffalo roast on his Christmas dinner menu.

The situation is said to be growing worse in China and more trouble is expected there.

The proposed canal around the rapids on the Columbia river would cost four million dollars.

Senator Allen severely denounced the gossip of lobbyists in the Senate at Washington last week.

It is intimated that the Union Pacific, Southern Pacific and Santa Fe railroads are likely to unite.

An Oakland baker has been sued for \$2,000 by a girl employee of his shop for keeping her without her consent.

Great distress and destitution is said to prevail among the Indians of the Southern California reservations.

Thirty insurgents were captured near Manila on December 17th by twenty-five men of the U. S. 20th infantry.

Nearly two million dollars is said to have been recently paid by an English syndicate for a Coalinda oil claim.

Classmates of dead Cadet Booz say he was regarded as a coward and was not persecuted for his religious belief.

Eleven hundred Christians are reported tortured to death or slain by the Mohammedan fanatics in Turkey.

Governor Wroth of Ohio has stated that he will not permit the proposed Jeffries-Ruhlin prize fight in that state.

Miss Vivian Sartoris, granddaughter of General Grant, is to be married to Timothy Nichols, a New York club man.

Under date of December 18th it is stated that the outlook for the passage of the canal bill this session is very dark.

The California delegation are working hard to prevent the ratification of the French and Jamaican reciprocity treaty.

A "Mayflower" society is to be organized in Oakland consisting of those who claim descent from the Mayflower pilgrims.

A sensational speech was recently made at a secret consistory in the Vatican by Pope Leo, bitterly denouncing the state.

"Kid" McCoy wants to arrange a fight with Corbett or some other heavyweight. He seeks to redeem his lost prestige.

After a desperate struggle a Chicago girl was beaten almost to death by a burglar last week. Her injuries are probably fatal.

An American mining engineer killed two Mexican bandits last week at El Paso, Texas. They attempted to rob him and he shot them.

Paul Julius Antoine, French Vice-Consul, died at the French Hospital in San Francisco last week, having shot himself through the head.

An Ostend woman has just confessed that her dead husband committed the crimes for which three innocent men were sent to the guillotine.

The arguments on both sides of the Philippine and Porto Rican cases have been made and the decision now rests with the United States Supreme Court.

A ballot box suitably inscribed and bearing California's majority, at the last election will be presented to President McKinley on his visit to the west.

Severe measures have been taken at West Point against hazing. Demerit marks to half the number which causes expulsion were given two hazers last week.

An insane sheep herder of San Miguel, Cal., cut his throat with a dull butcher knife and set his clothes on fire after saturating them with coal oil last week.

The coroner's jury in the case of four men who were killed in a railroad accident at Suisun severely censured the Southern Pacific Company for the accident.

The bill to give soldiers the preference in the matter of public appointments was defeated by a large majority in the House of Representatives last week.

The libel suit of J. H. von Schroeder against J. D. Spreckels of the San Francisco Call is now attracting a great deal of attention in the San Francisco courts.

Frank Chance, the baseball catcher, is recovering from the concussion of the brain caused by being struck in the ear a few weeks since. He is in a Los Angeles hospital.

Mrs. Louise Victor of Chicago last week became a proselyte to the Jewish faith because she feared to be separated from her husband in death, her husband being a Jew.

Captain Howgate, formerly chief of the U. S. weather bureau, will be released from New York state prison on New Year's day from a six-year sentence for forgery.

Dispatches from Madrid confirm the report that one hundred and thirty-six persons went down with the training ship Gneissau in the recent storm off the port of Malaga.

Another negro lynching affair is reported from Boonsville, Ind. John Rolla, who killed a barber, was taken from his prison cell and lynched by a mob in the jail yard.

Hugh Buchanan, an inmate of the Napa Insane asylum, just released, is to be tried on a charge of murder committed before he became insane in Yuba county. It will be a case of wide interest.

It is said that the Senate is to investigate the Nome mining cases in which charges have been made against the administration of the U. S. District Court of Alaska as to the violation of mining laws.

The French Government has bestowed the cross of the Legion of Honor upon Mme. von Rosthorn, wife of the Austrian Charge d'Affaires at Peking, for heroic assistance in defense of the French legation.

France has just returned to General Frey, commander of the French marine forces in China, several cases of looted goods, refusing to accept same. This action is regarded as an outcome of General Chaffee's protest against looting.

Capitalist Marks of Geneva, N. Y., died last week, leaving a will in which he bequeathed his fortune to his eldest child—which was expected to be born in a few days. A week after his death his wife gave birth to twins and the two children are so much alike it cannot be determined which is the eldest. The will will probably be broken.

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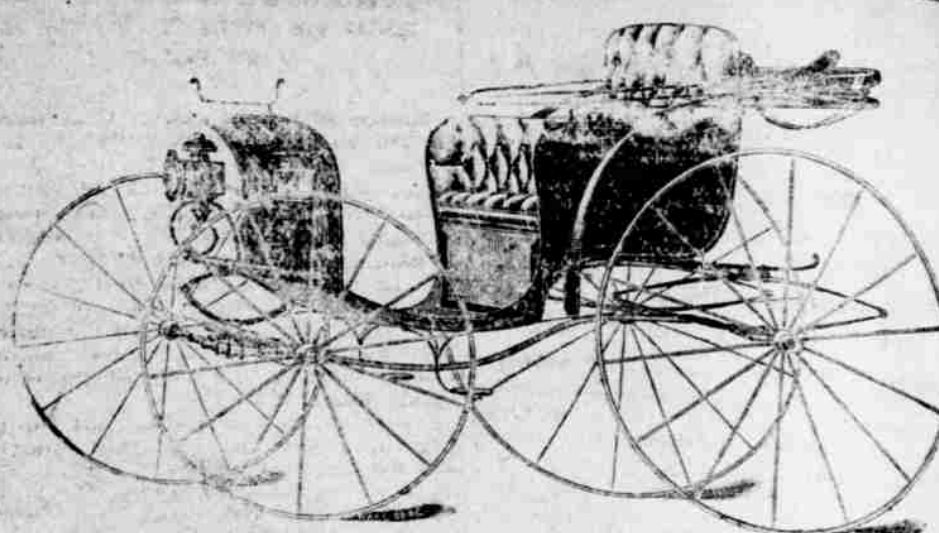
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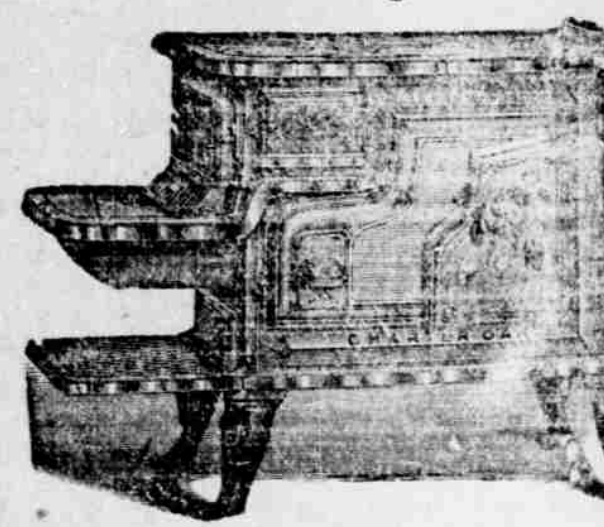
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